

App. No. 10/731,274
Amendment Dated March 14, 2007
Reply to Office Action of December 14, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended as set forth above. Claims 7-9, 17-18, and 27-28 are cancelled. The specification has been amended as set forth above. No new matter has been added.

I. Examiner Interview Dated February 20, 2007

An interview with Examiner Ries was held on February 20, 2007. Examiner Ries indicated that she has taken over Examiner Botts docket in that Examiner Botts has left the PTO. During the interview, the application, prior art and the changes in the claims were discussed. An agreement as to allowability was not reached. However, applicants believe that an agreement was reached that the changes to the claims push prosecution forward over the current rejections.

II. Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 1, 10 and 19 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 12, and 23 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/730,301; claims 1, 11, and 19 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/730,301; claims 1, 8, and 15 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10,727,299; and, claims 1, 9, and 15 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10,726,954. Applicants submit a timely filed terminal disclaimer herewith. Applicants request removal of the rejection.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 1-6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Independent claim 1 has been amended as set forth above. Applicants believe that the rejection has been overcome.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 6-10, 15-19, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,557,722 issued to DeRose et al. (hereinafter "DeRose"). Applicants

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respectfully disagree with the rejection. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

a first component that is arranged to edit an electronic document having editable objects;

a second component that is arranged to define a first location for the start of an editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is desired and to define a second location for the end of the editable object region, wherein the level of editing permission is indicated by a unique identifier;

a third component that is arranged to associate a user identifier for the specific user with the text region that is defined by the first and second locations, wherein the user identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier;

a fourth component that is arranged to encode in an ML format in the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier; and

a fifth component that is arranged to output an ML file that comprises the ML-encoded electronic document and the first and second elements.

Applicants assert that the above combination of features is not taught or suggested by DeRose. DeRose generally pertains to the rendering of electronic documents. *DeRose*, at Abstract. As asserted in the Office Action, DeRose teaches as follows:

Normal start tags 45 may also include attributes which are often useful for marking text which is to be hidden for security or other reasons, or for attaching a unique identifier for an element for cross-referencing or other uses. For example, when a document is rendered, an attribute for a start tag may be examined, and if the attribute has a predetermined value, display of the material may be prevented or modified, thus providing security for a document. *DeRose*, at col. 9, lines 2-9.

Here, DeRose is teaching hiding or securing a document in general. The security is provided to the document in association with material of the document. As also asserted in the Office Action, DeRose continues by teaching that "[e]xpressions in the style sheet which are evaluated may include functions for examining system-status information, such as the identification of the user, values of attributes for the current element, neighboring elements in the tree, or the current state of any formatting property, such as margins." *DeRose*, at col. 19, lines

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34-41. Here, the Office Action cites to a completely different portion of the specification than the security teachings cited in column 9. Here, DeRose is teaching the identification of a style for an element. DeRose is teaching that the style may be determined based on the identification of a user. For example, a user may have a user preference that is associated with the system. From the user preference, the styles are determined. DeRose does not teach "a second component that is arranged to define a first location for the start of an editable object region for which *a level of editing permission for a specific user* is desired and to define a second location for the end of the editable object region, *wherein the level of editing permission is indicated by a unique identifier*." Also, DeRose does not teach "a third component that is arranged to associate a user identifier for the specific user with the text region that is defined by the first and second locations, *wherein the user identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier*." DeRose does not teach a nexus between the level of editing permission for a specific user, the unique identifier, and the user identifier that indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 1 is allowable.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to include the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

defining a first location for the start of an editable object region for which *a level of editing permission for a specific user* is desired, *wherein the level of editing permission is indicated by a unique identifier*;

defining a second location for the end of the editable object region;

associating a user identifier for the specific user with the text region that is defined by the first and second locations, *wherein the user identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier*; and

encoding in an ML format the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier.

Applicants assert that the above combination of features is not taught or suggested by DeRose. DeRose generally pertains to the rendering of electronic documents. *DeRose*, at

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Abstract. DeRose teaches hiding or securing a document in general. The security is provided to the document in association with material of the document. DeRose also teaches the identification of a style for an element. DeRose teaches that the style may be determined based on the identification of a user. For example, a user may have a user preference that is associated with the system. From the user preference, the styles are determined. DeRose does not teach "defining a first location for the start of an editable object region for which *a level of editing permission for a specific user* is desired, *wherein the level of editing permission is indicated by a unique identifier*" Also, DeRose does not teach "associating a user identifier for the specific user with the text region that is defined by the first and second locations, *wherein the user identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier*" DeRose does not teach a nexus between the level of editing permission for a specific user, the unique identifier, and the user identifier that indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 10 is allowable.

Independent claim 19 has been amended to include the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

an electronic document file that comprises editable objects;

an editor that is arranged to define a first location for the start of an editable object region for which *a level of editing permission for a specific user* is desired, *wherein the level of editing permission is indicated by a unique identifier*, to define a second location for the end of the editable object region, and to associate a user identifier for the specific user with the text region that is defined by the first and second locations, *wherein the user identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier*, and

an encoder that is configured to encode in an ML format the electronic document, a first element that defines the first location, and a second element that defines the second location, wherein the first or second element further comprises the user identifier.

Applicants assert that the above combination of features is not taught or suggested by DeRose. DeRose generally pertains to the rendering of electronic documents. DeRose, at Abstract. DeRose teaches hiding or securing a document in general. The security is provided to

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the document in association with material of the document. DeRose also teaches the identification of a style for an element. DeRose teaches that the style may be determined based on the identification of a user. For example, a user may have a user preference that is associated with the system. From the user preference, the styles are determined. DeRose does not teach "an editor that is arranged to define a first location for the start of an editable object region for which *a level of editing permission for a specific user* is desired, *wherein the level of editing permission is indicated by a unique identifier*, to define a second location for the end of the editable object region, and to associate a user identifier for the specific user with the text region that is defined by the first and second locations, *wherein the user identifier indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier*." DeRose does not teach a nexus between the level of editing permission for a specific user, the unique identifier, and the user identifier that indicates the specific user having the level of editing permission indicated by the unique identifier. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 19 is allowable.

With regard to the dependent claims, the dependent claims include subject matter that is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Also, those claims ultimately depend from the independent claims above. As such, they should be found allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above.

V. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over DeRose in view of Ayers, L., "AbiWord's Potential," Linux Gazette, Issue 43, July 1999 (hereinafter "Ayers"), downloaded by the examiner on December 20, 2005, from: www.linuxgazette.com/issue43/ayers.html, downloaded pages 1-4. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over DeRose in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,136 ("Takata"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections. The references cannot be combined in the manner propounded. Moreover, the claims include features that are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Also, the claims depend from the 35 U.S.C.

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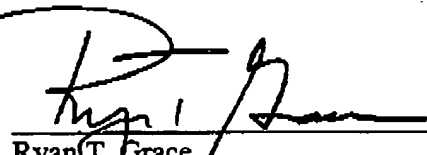
102(b) rejection above. The claims are allowable over 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Accordingly, applications believe the claims herein should be found allowable for at least the same reasons.

VI. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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